

SOLIDAGO SECT. PTARMICOIDEI, A NEW COMBINATION TO  
REPLACE A "RANKLESS" NAME USED BY TORREY  
AND A. GRAY (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREA)

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ABSTRACT

Within the treatment of *Solidago*, Torrey and Gray (1842), there are no textual indicators of the ranks intended for subdivision of the genus, and all of the Torrey and Gray names for subdivisions of *Solidago* are rankless. The new combination **Solidago** sect. **Ptarmicoidei** is made.

RESUMEN

En el tratamiento de *Solidago*, Torrey y Gray (1842), no hay indicadores textuales de los rangos que se hacen para la subdivisión del género, y todos los nombres de Torrey y Gray para las subdivisiones de *Solidago* no tienen rango. Se hace la nueva combinación **Solidago** sect. **Ptarmicoidei**.

Discussions concerned with the ranks of names of subdivisions of genera published by Torrey and Gray (1842) led to the conclusion that by and large such names are rankless unless a rank was explicitly indicated within the text (John Strother, John Pruski, John McNeill, pers. comm. with K.N. Gandhi). Torrey and Gray used the symbol § to represent either a subgenus or section. Unless a rank is explicitly indicated, names marked by the symbol § are rankless as are lower level names marked by indicators such as \*, \*\*, \*\*\* etc. Within the treatment of *Solidago* (Torrey and Gray 1842, pp. 195-231), there are no textual indicators of the ranks intended, and thus all of the Torrey and Gray infrageneric names in *Solidago* are rankless.

In Gray (1884), sectional and subgeneric ranks are clear. In his preface (vol. 2(1), 1878), Gray used the symbol § and large-type capital letters for names of sections and subgenera. He used nouns for names of subgenera and adjectives for names of sections. Additionally, Gray did mention subsection and further lower divisions (he did not mention series or subseries); he used the symbols \*, \*\*, etc. and small-type capital letters for names of subsections. By implication, a \*, \*\*, etc. denoted the rank of subsection because those symbols are placed at the beginning of the diagnostic statement and sectional name immediately follows the statement. One may dispute this; we go by implication. For example, *Solidago* [rankless] *Corymbosae* Torr. & A. Gray (in 1842) can be taken as *Sol-*

*idago* subsect. *Corymbosae* (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray (in 1884) because Gray (1884) listed it as "\*\*\*\*\* ... CORYMBOSAE" [small capitals].

Nesom (1993) summarized the infrageneric taxonomy of *Solidago* and lectotypified some names. He treated the corymbiform, oligoneurate species in a separate genus *Oligoneuron* Small. He accepted Torrey and Gray names with ranks generally accepted at that time by other authors following the rationale for doing so presented by Holmgren (1979) and Jones (1980). Nesom did not validate *Solidago* sect. *Corymbosae* Torr. & A. Gray. One of the criteria for valid publication of a name is that the author (in this case Nesom) must accept and use the name. Nesom cited "*Solidago* sect. *Corymbosae* T. & G." as a synonym of *Oligoneuron* sect. *Ptarmicoidei* (House) Nesom; therefore, he did not validate the former name. Semple, Ringius and Zhang (1999) followed Nesom's infrageneric nomenclature, except that they treated *Oligoneuron* as *Solidago* sect. *Corymbosae* Torr. & A. Gray with synonyms but did not list full bibliographic data for each name. Had they done so, they might have inadvertently validated the name at sectional rank.

**Solidago** L. sect. **Ptarmicoidei** (House) Semple & Gandhi, comb. nov. Based on *Aster* sect. *Ptarmicoidei* House, N.Y. State Mus. Bull. 254. 710. 1924, nom. et stat. nov. based on *Unamia* Greene (1903). *Oligoneuron* sect. *Ptarmicoidei* (House) G.L. Nesom, *Phytologia* 75:27. 1993. TYPE: *Inula alba* Nutt. = *Aster ptarmicoides* Torr. & A. Gray = *Solidago ptarmicoides* (Torr. & A. Gray) Boivin. [*Solidago asteroides* Semple (in Semple, Ringius and Zhang, U. Waterloo Biol. Ser. 39:72. 1999.) is a superfluous later name for the nomenclatural type because the much older *Aster ptarmicoides* Torr. & A. Gray is accepted as legitimate (see Voss 1996).]

*Solidago* [rankless] *Corymbosae* Torr. & A. Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 2(2):208. 1842. *Solidago* subsect. *Corymbosae* (Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray in A. Gray et al., Syn. Fl. N. Amer. 1(2):159. 1884. TYPE: *S. corymbosa* Elliott.

Names of subdivisions of genera are automatically typified by the species name from which the name of the subdivision is derived. For group *Corymbosae*, Torrey and A. Gray included *S. corymbosa*. Nesom (1993:26) erred in designating *Solidago rigida* L. as the lectotype.

*Oligoneuron* Small, Fl. SE. U.S. 1188. 1903. *Solidago* subg. *Oligoneuron* (Small) House, N.Y. State Mus. Bull. No. 254. 693. 1925. LECTOTYPE [Nesom 1993:26]: *Oligoneuron rigidum* (L.) Small = *Solidago rigida* L.

*Unamia* Greene, Leafl. Bot. Observ. 16. 1903. TYPE: *Inula alba* Nutt. = *Unamia ptarmicoides* (Torr. & A. Gray) Greene, nom. superfl. for *Unamia alba* (Nutt.) Rydb.

*Oligoneuron* ser. *Ptarmicoidei* (House) G.L. Nesom, *Phytologia* 75:28. 1993. *Aster* sect. *Ptarmicoidei* House, N.Y. State Mus. Bull. 254. 710. 1924. TYPE: *Inula alba* Nutt. = *Aster ptarmicoides* Torr. & A. Gray = *Solidago ptarmicoides* (Torr. & A. Gray) Boivin = *Oligoneuron album* (Nutt.) G.L. Nesom.

*Oligoneuron* ser. *Xanthactis* G.L. Nesom, *Phytologia* 75:28. 1993. TYPE: *Oligoneuron riddellii* (Frank) Rydb. = *Solidago riddellii* Frank.

Other nomenclatural decisions made by Nesom (1993) related to the rankless Torrey and Gray names include:

*Solidago* sect. *Solidago*

**Solidago** subsect. **Maritimae** (Torr. & A. Gray) G.L. Nesom, *Phytologia* 75:12. 1993.

Based on *Solidago* [rankless] *Maritimae* Torr. & A. Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 2(2):211. 1842. LECTOTYPE [Nesom 1993:12] *Solidago sempervirens* L. [Nesom made this subsectional name inadvertently.]

*Solidago* subg. *Stenactila* Raf., Fl. Tellur. 2:42. 1836 [1837]. LECTOTYPE [Nesom 1993:12] *Solidago sempervirens* L.

*Solidago* [rankless] *Uliginosae* Mackenzie in Small, Man. SE. Fl. 1345, 1347. 1933. TYPE: *Solidago uliginosa* Nutt. cited under *Solidago unihgulata* (DC.) Porter.

**Solidago** subsect. **Triplinerviae** (Torr. & A. Gray) G.L. Nesom, Phytologia 75:8. 1993. *Solidago* [rankless] *Triplinerviae* Torr. & A. Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 2(2):222. 1842; A. Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Amer. 1(2):155. 1884. LECTOTYPE [Nesom 1993:8] *Solidago canadensis* L. [Nesom made this subsectional name inadvertently.]

*Solidago* subg. *Brachyactis* Raf., Fl. Tellur. 2:42. 1836. TYPE: *Solidago juncea* Aiton. Nesom (1993:8) erred in designating a LT.; Raf. designated *S. juncea* as the type.

*Solidago* subg. *Triactis* Raf., Fl. Tellur. 2:42. 1836 [1837]. TYPE: *Solidago retrorsa* Michx. Nesom (1993:11) erred in designating a LT.; Raf. designated *S. retrorsa* as the type.

*Solidago* [rankless] *Serotinae* Rydb., Fl. Rocky Mts. 868. 1917. TYPE: *Solidago serotina* Aiton (1789), non Retz. (1781) = *Solidago gigantea* Ait.

*Solidago* [rankless] *Serotinae* Mackenzie in J. K. Small, Man. SE. Fl. 1345, 1350. 1933, non Rydb. (1917). TYPE: *Solidago serotina* Retz. (1781), non Ait. (1789) = ? *S. tortifolia* Ell. (1824).

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